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Chairperson's Annual Report 2009-2010

Ladies and gentlemen, guests and friends

Let us acknowledge the traditional owners of country on which we stand and I pay respect to the people of the Kulin Nation, custodians of this sacred land.

Thank you for joining us today and I warmly welcome you to City Village, the home of the Bayanihan Australia Community Network (BACNI). Every generation has a story to tell; a migrant community, a journey to share. We are a bunch of dreamers, with little money but with the spirit to keep building our vision of a strong community, one that we can pass on to the next generation with pride.

"Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes time. Vision with action can change the world." – Joel Barker

The **Bayanihan vision** is: **"Strong community partnerships that deliver benefits to the Filipino Australian community"**. We also agreed to follow a **Code of Conduct** - "To do the right thing and to do things right".

The year 2009 showed us that we achieved a lot as volunteers, but there is still much to do. But we can now proudly acknowledge that little by little, we are making a difference in strengthening our community by applying our **three objectives**:

- **Leadership development**- the Network members accessed *community onboard* training session, thanks to the City of Boroondara; we held our first Residential Strategic Planning meeting in Boronia
- **Intergenerational mentoring program**- continues to bear fruit, as demonstrated by the supportive relationships that exist between Individuals and key members of ageing Committees of Management. BACNI convened and formally launched on 12 June 2010 the **Filipino Advisory Council of Elders** (FACE), a living demonstration of the value and affection that younger BACNI members have for the older generation.
- **Community project partnerships with Network members and with government** – the attached Calendar of Activities shows the great work that every organisation is delivering to the community. For example, the cultural performances by the Network organisation members (FAFA Geelong, Silayan, PEASER) at multicultural events; BACNI's Pasko sa Nayon 2010 Concert in Federation Square, Pasko CD project to promote Filipino carols sang by community singers; Pako Festa 2010 in Geelong which heard the Angklung Bamboo Band for the first time; Harmony Day's Bayanihan Multicultural Fiesta @ Myuna Farm to signal our interest in suitability issues; CPCA's aged care services and forums; and MISCI's Youth sports multicultural mentoring project.

BACNI's role in providing support to key Filipino Australian community activities

The year 2009 also highlighted the unique role of BACNI within the broader Filipino Australia community with the Network Members attending community meetings where community betterment was the goal. For example, the Emergency Relief Fund for the Philippines (ERFFP) meeting in January 2010 produced the ERFFP Working Committee, the Filo Community calendar of Events 2010 and the List of Filo Community Organisations. It became clear to the public that BACNI Network possesses the organisational structure, technological system, volunteer skills and positive leadership to provide support other community organisations with their own initiatives. BACNI is proud to improve community communications in practical and positive ways.

Again, when a public meeting was called in February 2010 to discuss ongoing management issues within the organisation Filipino Community Council of Victoria which were jeopardising taxpayer funded aged services for elderly Filipinos, the affected BACNI Members attended and spoke up without fear or favour. We know that it takes courage to advocate for the vulnerable, to speak up against a wrong, to resist an accepted bad practice or to trial something different way to improve things. But we will stay firm and follow the bayanihan way "to do right":

"The Ignatian motto espouses three principles for each man to live by: discernment, courage, for others. Students and adults are asked in their daily lives to sift the evidence and exercise sound judgment; to show courage in doing right, and to live a life for others. The young are taught to value themselves, their own minds and their gifts, to use these for greater good. These people are the new leaders; they will shape the future of the Filipino Australian community"

- M Cichello, article *Perspective: On Leadership*, Aug 2007

I therefore thank all the Network members who started and those who joined us in this journey; the very hardworking BACNI Committee, the government bodies who share and support our vision (the Victorian Multicultural Commission Chair George Lekakis and his staff; Melbourne City Council especially Cr Jennifer Kanis; City Village organisations; Boroondara Community OnBoard staff; Department of Immigration & Citizenship especially Dr Luigi Soccio; Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs; Ethnic Communities Council for the South East and Chair Mr Sam Afra; City of Casey Councillors Lynette Kellaheer and Wayne Smith; Doveton-Eumemmering Neighbourhood Renewal Program; Myuna Farm; Federation Square Staff; Honorary Auditor Ross Baltazar CPA; Hon Legal Adviser Vytas Valasinavicius; Cultural Ambassadors from the Philippines Mr Conrado & Mrs Criselda Aguilar, the amazing community performers at our events; the wonderful unpaid volunteers; our supportive spouses and patient children; the Filipino Australian media; other ethnic organisations; sponsors and to those who encourage us on the way. Thank you all for a wonderful year of working together.

There are several community projects underway for the rest of 2010-2011, for which we thank funding bodies, councils and non-government organisations for support. WE look forward to continuing collaboration!

Finally, I would like to share with you an inspiring article given to me by our teen- aged son, who is leading us by example to take up resistance training at the gym to improve our health and fitness - it explains beautifully why we need resistance and struggle for strength and for the ability to fly to our dreams!

Yours in unity,



- **Mila Cichello** (BACNI Chairperson)

25 July 2010

Accepting RESISTANCE

We have all seen and been in awe of the beauty and elegance of a butterfly. Let me tell you a story...



A young boy found a cocoon that had fallen off a tree and so he picked it up and took it home to look after it. He had just learned in school how a beautiful butterfly always emerges from the cocoon and so he sat there watching and waiting. As the butterfly started to push through a small opening in the cocoon the boy got excited. After several hours of struggling the butterfly had still not emerged and so the boy, with only kindness in his heart, decided to help. He got a pair of scissors and simply snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The

butterfly was then able to easily escape the cocoon, but emerged with a swollen body and small wings.

The little boy watched and waited for the wings to enlarge and the butterfly to be able to support its body which would reduce in size at the same time. Neither happened! The butterfly spent the rest of its short life crawling around with a swollen body and shrivelled wings – it was never able to fly.

It is all about the struggle

What the little boy, in his kindness and haste didn't understand, was that it was the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening that forced fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings, so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. It was the struggle and the resistance that allowed the butterfly its beauty and ability to fly!

Embrace resistance to allow you your beauty and ability to fly

Why are we so keen to avoid struggle and resistance in our lives when it is through this resistance that we achieve the ability to fly in our own lives? We are faced every day with situations and circumstances that create challenges and resistance for us. If we simply embraced this resistance and knew that on the other side is a beautiful butterfly then I know we would handle adversity and struggle with a more determined and positive outlook.

Do today what others won't...

It is my belief that the greatest resistance we face, that prevents us from doing and achieving in our lives, comes from other people. We seem to be so worried about what others think that in many cases it prevents us from doing things that would really will allow us to fly. How many times are we discouraged from doing things? How many times are we ridiculed and laughed at for wanting something more in our lives? How often are we given bad advice from well meaning people who know no better? The big and most important question for all of us is; how many times will we listen to these people and let their words and influence prevent us from going for and achieving something we truly desire?

Here is some good advice that I got from my mentor: if the person giving us advice, resistance or ridicule hasn't achieved what we desire, then we shouldn't listen to them. In fact I will go as far as to say that if, in our pursuit of a better life, we meet with a lot of resistance from people, then we are right on track! **If we want to be exceptional and live exceptional lives then we need to do the things that most people will never do.**

I will leave you with my favorite quote –

“I will do today what others won't so I can live tomorrow like others can't “

Embrace resistance and fly! - *By: Andrew Jobling (June 27, 2010)*

BACNI CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES (2009-2010)

July 2009

- Sun 5 July 2009 - **BACNI Annual General Meeting & Election of Officers**
Guest Speaker: Carmela Trinidad Sison (New convenor 3ZZZ) "Bayanihan spirit and the role of media in the community".

August 2009

- 2 Aug 2009 – BACNI Committee Planning Meeting
- Sat 15 Aug 2009 - **FAFAG Health & Migration Information Seminar** (with the Council of Greater Geelong, Diversitat Geelong, Dept of Immigration & Citizenship and BACNI)
- 28- 30 August 2009 - **First BACNI Network Residential Strategic Planning Week -end** at Janssen Centre for Spirituality and intercultural Relations

September 2009

- **Sep 2009** – BACNI Monthly Committee meeting; Member Organisations planning month

October 2009

- Sat 3 Oct 2009 - **FAFAG 27th Anniversary Dance** at the Clubhouse
- 17 Oct 2009 - **MISCI Fundraising Dinner Dance**, Millennium Receptions in Sunshine
- Sat 31 Oct 2009 –**FAFAG Halloween Night Family Dance** at the Clubhouse

November 2009

- Nov 2009 - Leadership Development Seminars begin
- Sun 22 Nov 2009 - **FAFAG Pokies Trip** to Crown

December 2009

- Sat 12 Dec 2009 - **3rd PASKO SA NAYON** (Christmas in the Village) Community Concert
BMW Edge Theatre, Federation Square
- Sun 20 Dec 2009 - **FAFAG Christmas Lunch BBQ**

JANUARY 2010

- Fri 8 Jan 2010 - **Meeting BACNI/CPCA/City of Casey/ VIC Dept Human Services/ Doveton Eumemmering Neighbourhood Renewal/ Myuna Farm re March Harmony Day Fiesta**
- 26 Jan 2010- **PEASER cultural performance** at Australia Day Globe to Globe Fiesta
- 26 Jan 2010- **MISCI Western Multicultural Basketball Family BBQ**
- Sat 30 Jan 2010- **Filipino Silayan Dance Academy cultural performance**

FEBRUARY 2010

- Tues 2 February 2010 - **BACNI Planning Meeting** at BACNI Office
- 18 February 2010- **Leadership Training with Community OnBoard**. Topic: Fundraising
- Sat 27 February 2010- **South Eastern Region Multicultural Youth HipHop Concert**, Doveton

- **Sun 28 February 2010 PAKO Multicultural Festa Geelong-** FAFAG, CPCA and Tunog Kawayan Bamboo Band and dancers
- **Sun 28 February 2010- Migrante Australia Fundraising Dinner:** CPCA and Tunog Kawayan Bamboo Band and dancers cultural performance

MARCH 2010

- **Tues 2 March 2010** - BACNI Meeting City Village
- **Sat 13 March 2010-** VMC Premiers Multicultural Gala Dinner
- **Thurs 18 March 2010 - Leadership Training with Community OnBoard.** Topic: Annual Business and Community Networking
- **21 March 2010 - Harmony Day's Bayanihan Multicultural Fiesta @Myuna Farm, Doveton**

APRIL 2010

- **Fri 2 April 2010-** MISCI and BACNI: Melbourne sport teams travel to Perth
- **Easter weekend Sat 3- Sun 4 April 2010- National Association of Sports Australia (NASA): 34th NASA & 3rd Global Easter Games at** Loftus Recreation Centre, Perth WA
- **Tues 13 April 2010 - Leadership Training with Community OnBoard** Topic: Writing for Grants and Tenders
- **Fri 16 April 2010-** Leadership Training with Community OnBoard Topic: Small Grants

MAY 2010

- **Tues 4 May 2010-** BACNI Meeting City Village
- **Tues 11 May 2010- Leadership Training with Community OnBoard.** Topic: Big Issues? A better solution

JUNE 2010

- **Tues 1 June 2010** - BACNI Meeting City Village
- **Thurs 10 June 2010-** Leadership Training with Community OnBoard. Topic: Smarter funding solutions for community organisations
- **Sat 12 June 2010-** Phil Independence Day South East Region Ageing Well Forum; Filipino Fiesta@Knox) and Formal Launch of Filipino Advisory Council of Elders
- **Sat 12 June 2010-** Phil Independence Day's FAFAG Rural Dance

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